

### **Amendments to the Claims**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A signal transmitter which is connected for connecting to a signal receiver via a transmission line, the signal transmitter comprising:

a time-base compression means for time-base-compressing a first signal an audio signal employing a video sampling clock;

— a multiplexing control signal generator for generating a multiplexing control signal on the basis of a second signal;

a signal multiplexing means for multiplexing the time-base-compressed first signal, the second signal and a third signal audio signal and a video signal, employing the a multiplexing control signal generated by the multiplexing control signal generator based on a horizontal synchronizing signal or a vertical synchronizing signal, and outputting a video/audio multiplexed signal; and via a data line, and outputting the multiplexing control signal via a transmission line different from the data line.

— a signal transmitting means for transmitting the multiplexed signal and the multiplexing control signal to the signal receiver.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A signal transmitter which is connected for connecting to a signal receiver via a transmission line, the signal transmitter comprising:

a time-base compression means for time-base-compressing a first signal an audio signal employing a video sampling clock;

a multiplexing control signal generator for generating a multiplexing control signal on the basis of a second signal; which provides a no-signal period between the time-base compressed audio signal and a video signal; and

a signal multiplexing means for multiplexing the time-base-compressed first signal, the second signal and a third signal, audio signal and a video signal, employing the multiplexing control signal generated by the multiplexing control signal generator, signal, and outputting a video/audio multiplexed signal via a data line.; and

— a signal transmitting means for transmitting the multiplexed signal to the signal receiver.